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PRUDHOE URBAN DISTRICT

County of Northumberland



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**ANNUAL REPORT**

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

For the Year 1970



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PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman: Councillor A. Glendinning.

Members:

Councillors: G. P. Atkinson.

Mrs. F. N. Foster.

D. O. Gazzani.

J. Griffin.

A. R. Johnston, C.C.

R. S. Prockter, J.P.

A. J. Shilling.

T. Weatherspoon.

OFFICERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health: H.C.T. Smith,  
M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., D.P.A.

Public Health Inspector: W.G. Tweddle, M.A.P.H.I.

Shorthand/Typist/Clerk: Miss J. Gray.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year Ended 31st December, 1970.

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Council Offices,  
PRUDHOE, NE42 5NF,  
Northumberland.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my privilege to present the annual report for 1970.

The birth rate is again low although slightly above last year's level. The cause for this low rate is not clear. Newcastle and Northumberland have a birth rate well below the national average and the areas around Newcastle are lower still. It may be that the slight expansion in Prudhoe's population in recent years which has been associated with private housing development has been due to families who have already had their children moving into the district.

In the last few years there has been little local industry in Prudhoe and the only large employer of labour has been the Prudhoe and Monkton Hospital. It was good to see the new paper tissue factory growing during 1970 and gradually taking on more employees. When this factory is fully established it should bring some much needed prosperity to Prudhoe.

During 1970, work commenced on the new sewage works. This scheme which will cost in the region of one million pounds will deal with the sewage from Prudhoe, Wylam, Ovingham and Ovington. It should be completed during 1971.

There was a sharp outbreak of influenza at the beginning of 1970. Little infectious disease was notified. No notifications of tuberculosis were received although there was a death from tuberculosis in a case which had not been notified.

I would like to express my thanks to Mr. Tweddle and Miss Gray for their good work and to the members of the Council for their support.

Yours faithfully,

H. C. T. Smith

Medical Officer of Health

## GENERAL STATISTICS

Area of the District in acres	...	...	3,889
Registrar General's Estimate of Population			11,060
Inhabited Houses	...	...	3,382
Rateable Value...	...	...	£285,798
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	£ 1,123

### Population Trends

Year 1951	...	9,484
1956	...	9,950
1961	...	9,990
1962	...	10,180
1963	...	10,330
1964	...	10,490
1965	...	10,580
1966	...	10,660
1967	...	10,660
1968	...	10,730
1969	...	10,930
1970	...	11,060



# VITAL STATISTICS

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Numbers Female</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>RATES 1970</u>
LIVE BIRTHS ... ..	66	64	130	
Live birth rate per 1,000 population				11.8
Comparability factor: 0.94				
Adjusted birth rate per 1,000 population				11.1
ILLEGITIMATE BIRTHS ... ..	2	2	4	
Illegitimate birth rate per 100 total live births				3.1
STILLBIRTHS ... ..	2	1	3	
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths				22.6
TOTAL LIVE AND STILLBIRTHS ...	68	65	133	
DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR.	1	-	1	
Infant mortality rate (Deaths in the first year of life per 1,000 live births)... ..				7.7
Illegitimate infant deaths. ...	-	-	Nil	
DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 4 WEEKS	1	-	1	
Neonatal mortality rate (Deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 live births)				7.7
Perinatal mortality rate (Stillbirths + deaths in the first week per 1,000 total births) ... ..				22.6
DEATHS ... ..	81	57	138	
Death rate per 1,000 population..				12.5
Comparability factor: 1.12				
Adjusted death rate per 1,000 population				14.0

There have been no maternal deaths in Prudhoe since 1956.

Comparison with Previous Years

Year	Birth Rate (Adjusted)	Illegitimate Live Birth Rate	Still Birth Rate	Infant Mortality Rate	Neonatal Mortality Rate	Perinatal Mortality Rate	Death Rate (Adjusted)
1956 - 1960 ...	14.6	1.5	18.1	31.5	29.3	44.0	13.4
1961 - 1965 ...	15.5	3.4	10.8	21.7	19.3	27.2	14.7
1966 - 1970 ...	12.1	3.8	16.0	18.3	10.7	21.2	13.9
1966 ...	14.5	4.8	12.0	24.2	24.2	23.9	14.5
1967 ...	12.3	2.8	14.0	28.5	21.4	28.1	13.1
1968 ...	12.1	5.1	7.2	14.5	Nil	7.2	14.9
1969 ...	10.4	3.3	24.2	16.5	Nil	24.2	13.1
1970 ...	11.1	3.1	22.6	7.7	7.7	22.6	14.0

Comparison with Other Areas - 1970

	Birth Rate (Adjusted)	Illegi- timate Birth Rate	Still Birth Rate	Infant Mortality Rate	Neonatal Mortality Rate	Perinatal Mortality Rate	Death Rate (Adjusted)	Comparability Factors	
								Births	Deaths
England and Wales	16.0	8.2	13.0	18.2	12.3	23.5	11.7	1.00	1.00
Northumberland...	14.0	5.7	12.8	16.0	10.9	21.4	12.9	1.01	1.03
South Area.....	12.2	5.6	11.7	11.7	7.6	17.7	12.8	0.96	1.00
Prudhoe U.D.....	11.1	3.1	22.6	7.7	7.7	22.6	14.0	0.94	1.12



Comparison with Other Areas - 1966/1970

	Birth Rate (Adjusted)	Illegi- timate Live Birth Rate	Still Birth Rate	Infant Mortality Rate	Neonatal Mortality Rate	Perinatal Mortality Rate	Death Rate (Adjusted)
England and Wales	16.9	8.3	14.1	18.3	12.4	24.6	11.6
Northumberland...	14.5	5.6	13.9	17.2	12.0	23.7	12.8
South Area.....	13.0	4.8	10.6	14.9	11.2	19.5	12.3
Prudhoe U.D.....	12.1	3.8	16.0	18.3	10.7	21.2	13.9

## CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT AGES DURING 1970

CAUSE OF DEATH	Sex	All Ages	Under 4 wks	4 wks and under 1	AGE IN YEARS									
					1 -	5 -	15 -	25 -	35 -	45 -	55 -	65 -	75 and over	
Enteritis and other diarrhoeal diseases.....	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	1*	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis of respiratory system.....	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases.....	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	1*	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, oesophagus.....	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach.....	M	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, intestine.....	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus.....	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2
Malignant neoplasm, breast	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Other malignant neoplasms	F	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
Mental disorders.....	M	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
Other diseases of nervous system.....	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1*
Chronic rheumatic heart disease.....	F	6	-	-	-	-	-	1*	1*	-	-	-	-	-
Hypertensive disease.....	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Ischaemic heart disease....	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other forms of heart disease.....	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Cerebrovascular disease....	F	25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
		13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
		2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
		14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4



## DEATHS

### Infant Deaths

The one infant death was at 3 weeks due to a congenital abnormality of the pulmonary veins.

### Stillbirths

One was ascribed to hydrocephalus and spina bifida; one to anencephaly and the other was an intra-uterine death due to placental insufficiency.

### Principal Causes of Death

There were 32 deaths at the Prudhoe and Monkton Hospital accounting for all of the deaths in the age groups 1 - 44. The remainder of the district had 106 deaths giving a crude death rate of approximately 11.4 per 1,000 population.

					<u>Total</u>		<u>Hospital</u>		<u>Home</u>	
					<u>No</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>%</u>
Cancer	...	...	...	...	19	(13.8)	2	( 6.3)	17	(16.0)
Ischaemic heart disease.	...			...	38	(27.5)	3	( 9.4)	35	(33.0)
Cerebro-vascular disease	...			...	25	(18.1)	1	( 3.1)	24	(22.7)
Other heart & circulatory disease					7	( 5.1)	1	( 3.1)	6	( 5.7)
Respiratory disease	...	...			28	(20.3)	14	(43.8)	14	(13.2)
All other diseases	...	...			19	(13.8)	10	(31.2)	9	( 8.5)
Accidents and suicide...	...				<u>2</u>	( 1.4)	<u>1</u>	( 3.1)	<u>1</u>	( 0.9)
					<u>138</u>		<u>32</u>		<u>106</u>	



## TUBERCULOSIS

No new case of Tuberculosis was notified during 1970.

### Tuberculosis Registers

		<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>		<u>Total</u>
		<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	
January, 1970	...	8	4	-	3	15
December, 1970	...	8	4	-	3	15

### Prudhoe and Monkton Hospital

January, 1970	...	10	9	1	1	21
December, 1970	...	10	9	1	1	21

### Comparison with Previous Years

<u>Year</u>			<u>New Cases Notified</u>		<u>Deaths</u>
			<u>Pulmonary</u>	<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>	
Average 1951/1955	...	...	12	3	2
Average 1956/1960	...	...	7	1	2
1961	...	...	4	-	1
1962	...	...	1	2	1
1963	...	...	8	-	2
1964	...	...	5	-	1
1965	...	...	1	-	-
1966	...	...	6	1	1
1967	...	...	3	3	-
1968	...	...	-	-	1
1969	...	...	1	-	-
1970	...	...	-	-	1



# INFECTIOUS DISEASES

## Notifications received

	Under 1 year	1 - 4	5 - 14	15 - 44	45 - 64	65 +	TOTAL
Dysentery.....	-	2	13	14	-	1	30
Infective Jaundice	-	-	-	2	-	-	2
Measles.....	1	7	3	1	-	-	12
Scarlet Fever.....	-	2	5	1	-	-	8
Whooping Cough....	-	2	-	-	-	-	2

## Month of notification

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Octr	Novr	Decr
Dysentery.....	-	3	-	5	-	-	-	21	-	-	1	-
Infective Jaundice	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles.....	3	2	-	-	1	1	2	1	2	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever.....	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	4
Whooping Cough....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-

## Dysentery

All the notified cases were at the Prudhoe and Monkton Hospital.

## Influenza

A sharp outbreak occurred commencing around Christmas 1969 and reaching its peak in the first two weeks of 1970. We were notified by the Ministry of Social Security early in January that the number of new claims for sickness benefit in the area was 250% above the summer average. The actual figures were:

Week Ending 24th December, 1969.....	225%
31st December, 1969.....	261%
6th January, 1970.....	427%
13th January, 1970.....	384%
20th January, 1970.....	110%

There were five deaths directly attributed to influenza in January, four of them at the Prudhoe and Monkton Hospital. The deaths from other respiratory diseases increased at the same time.

While influenza outbreaks often most severely affect the older age groups, this outbreak was different in that it seemed that persons in the middle age groups were more often affected.

## IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION

Immunisation and Vaccination are given as far as possible according to the following schedule.

	<u>Age</u>	<u>Vaccine</u>
1	4 months	Triple Antigen and Oral Poliomyelitis.
2	6 months	Triple Antigen and Oral Poliomyelitis.
3	12 months	Triple Antigen and Oral Poliomyelitis.
4	2nd year	Measles.
5	2nd year	Smallpox.
6	4/5 years	Diphtheria, Tetanus and Oral Poliomyelitis.
7	10/12 years	B.C.G., (if necessary after skin test).
8	12/14 years	Rubella vaccination (girls only).
9	On leaving school	Tetanus and Oral Poliomyelitis.

In comparing the number of completed courses for diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus and poliomyelitis for children born in a given year with the number of births in that year, it would seem that nearly all children are receiving their vaccines. If any child has not been immunised by the time he starts school the parents are again contacted and the few not previously immunised are caught up then.

Measles vaccination was introduced in the Spring of 1968 and that year 230 children under the age of eight were vaccinated. In March, 1969, one of the manufacturers had to withdraw supplies and for the rest of the year very little vaccine was available. Only 105 children were vaccinated that year. Supplies became readily available again in the Summer of 1970 and it was possible to vaccinate 206 children before the end of the year.

Prudhoe has a better record than other districts for measles vaccination and although a few cases of the disease were notified during 1970 there has been no large outbreak since 1968.

Rubella vaccination was introduced in the Autumn of 1970. The illness is usually insignificant but the disease is important because if contracted in the early months of pregnancy can lead to malformations of the foetus. With a view to preventing this, vaccination is being offered to girls in their 14th year i.e., well before the child-bearing years.

# Immunisation and Vaccination

	Year of Birth						
	1970	1969	1968	1967	1963-66	1954-62	Total
Primary Triple ... ..	-	105	27	2	-	-	134
Primary Diphtheria/Tetanus ...	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Primary Tetanus... ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Reinforcing Triple ... ..	-	1	8	23	4	-	36
Reinforcing Diphtheria/Tetanus	-	-	-	-	145	1	146
Reinforcing Diphtheria.. ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Reinforcing Tetanus ... ..	-	-	-	-	-	8	8
Primary Poliomyelitis... ..	-	86	23	4	2	-	115
Reinforcing Poliomyelitis ...	-	1	8	23	162	94	288
Primary Smallpox Vaccination..	2	38	39	12	4	-	95
Revaccination ... ..	-	-	-	1	-	1	2
Measles Vaccination ... ..	1	63	52	24	65	1	206
Rubella Vaccination ... ..	-	-	-	-	-	47	47



REPORT

of the

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

For the Year Ended 31st December, 1970.

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To: Dr. Smith,

I have much pleasure in presenting my annual report.

INSPECTIONS AND VISITS

Water Supply	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	34
Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	98
Stables and Piggeries...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Hairdressers and Barbers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Caravan Sites	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Factories	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	40
Bakehouses, Bakers and Confectioners	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Public Conveniences	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	73
Places of Entertainment and Licensed Premises...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	42
Scrap Metal Dealers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Refuse Disposal...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	185
Pest Control	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	95
Clean Air	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	38
Schools and Shops.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	38
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	81
Noise Abatement...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Public Health Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	168
Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	283
Inquiries and Disinfection in cases of Infectious Disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Dairies and Milk Distributors.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Butchers, Canteens, Fishmongers, Grocers and Food Preparing Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	95
Ice Cream Retailers and Restaurants.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	39
Street Vendors and Hawkers' Carts...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Miscellaneous Visits (General Sanitation).	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	169
Miscellaneous Food Visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
								<u>1,637</u>

Number of Nuisances Found	...	...	78
Number of Nuisances Abated	...	...	78
Number of Verbal Notices Served.	...	...	46
Number of Verbal Notices Complied With	...	...	46
Number of Informal Notices Served	...	...	146
Number of Informal Notices Complied With	...	...	144
Number of Statutory Notices Served	...	...	3
Number of Statutory Notices Complied With	...	...	3

## HOUSING

The Council's Edgewell estate of 117 houses was completed early in 1970, these houses were all centrally heated by gas.

The remaining prefabricated bungalows at Broomhill and Errington Place were demolished, thus removing all this temporary type of structure.

Steady development continued at Paddock Wood, and 30 private houses at Mickley were nearing completion. The Castle Hill estate proceeded very slowly and few houses were completed. The private development of G. Wimpey & Co. Ltd., at Painshawfield Road, Stocksfield, was also nearing completion at the end of the year, 118 houses being built on this estate. Ten detached private houses were built at Drawback and a further three houses were under construction. At Broomhill Road, 14 new bungalows were built and completed. These were of the two-bedroom type and were useful in housing some physically handicapped persons. Two new bungalows were completed, one at Eastwood Terrace and the other at Mickley.

Improvement work on pre-war council houses continued at Mickley, Castle Dene and Edgewell. Improvements to private houses continued throughout the year and at the end of 1970, 33 houses had received grants.

Improvement work on houses at West Mickley commenced and Nos. 2 to 22, Oak Street (7 terraced houses and 2 flats) and five houses in Beech Street were demolished in this General Improvement Area.

Plans were in hand to build old persons flats at West Wylam.

During the year, Nos. 73 and 74, Front Street, Prudhoe were demolished so that Barclays Bank could be extended.

The Castle Farm Cottage was demolished so that a new road to the south of Kimberly-Clark's factory could be constructed.

The following houses were closed:-

Nos. 1 and 2, St. Thomas' Terrace, Prudhoe.

No. 4, Thorncliffe Cottages, Prudhoe.

Nos. 35 and 35a, Front Street, Prudhoe.



<u>New Houses completed during the year</u>	<u>With State Assistance</u>	<u>Unaided</u>	<u>Total</u>
(a) By Local Authority ... ..	40	--	40
(b) By any other Housing Authority	--	--	--
(c) By Private Persons ... ..	--	117	117

Total number of inhabited houses in District..... 3,382

Total number of houses owned by Local Authority.. 1,600

### ACTION WITH REGARD TO UNFIT HOUSES

#### CLOSING AND DEMOLITION

(1) Houses demolished in Clearance Areas ... ..	--
(2) Houses demolished not in Clearance Areas.. ...	14
(3) Houses Closed, not demolished ... ..	15
(4) Any other houses permanently discontinued as dwellings and not included above ... ..	--

#### REPAIRS

##### Houses made fit

(5) By informal action ... ..	19
(6) By owners, following statutory notice ... ..	--
(7) By local authority in default of owners... ..	--
(8) Demolition Orders revoked after reconstruction..	--

#### SLUM CLEARANCE PROGRAMME

Housing Act, 1957

Part III Houses still to be cleared ... ..	20
Part II Houses likely to be subject to demolition or closing orders ... ..	22
Approximate number of unfit houses likely to remain after 1973 ... ..	20

### IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

#### IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

(1) Applications submitted to local authority during year	27
(2) Applications rejected... ..	--
(3) Applications approved... ..	27
(4) Approximate average grant approved per house ...	£452
(5) Total number of houses approved for grant in area since inception of scheme ... ..	204

## STANDARD GRANTS

	<u>During the</u> <u>Year</u>	<u>Total to</u> <u>Date</u>
(1) Number of separate houses for which grants have been made ... ..	6	47
(2) Number of houses so provided with		
(a) Bath or shower... ..	6	42
(b) Wash hand basin.. ...	6	42
(c) Hot water supply. ...	6	42
(d) Water closet ... ..	6	9
(e) Sink ... ..	2	2

## PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936

There were five privy closets in use at the end of the year and all houses had a piped water supply from the mains of the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company.

### Public Conveniences.

Branch End, Stocksfield.

Road Ends, Prudhoe.

These premises again required regular inspection and constant cleansing of the interiors was necessary to keep the premises in a reasonable state. I have again to report damage at both these premises, windows being broken, stalls being actually pulled out of place at Branch End and paint was on one occasion daubed over the doors, walls and floor.

### Refuse Collection and Disposal (House and Trade Refuse).

This service again functioned very efficiently although the volume of refuse continued to increase due to the elimination of coal-burning fires and the building of houses using gas, oil or electricity. Packaging materials and the use of plastic containers continued to increase in number and volume.

The Department coped with a very large number of requests for the removal of unwanted household articles, refrigerators, washing machines and even pianos, this was carried out by special collection at no cost to the person.

In June, the Council's Work Study Officers commenced a survey of the Refuse Collection Department staff and plans were in hand to introduce an incentive bonus scheme early in January, 1971. This would have the effect of reducing the number of men engaged on this work with a consequential increase in their earnings.

An order was placed for a new Shelvoke and Drewry Pakamatic 20 cubic yard refuse collection vehicle with a crushing bar to replace the Shelvoke and Drewry vehicle which was in its 14th year.

West Wylam Tip was given special attention and it is evident that in the future the tipping and disposal of refuse at West Wylam will have to be given very special consideration to prevent any nuisance arising from burning materials and also because of the need to dispose of sewage sludge from the new works at Low Prudhoe.

Additional litter bins were erected during the year and posters were obtained and displayed from time to time throughout the area in an attempt to obtain the assistance of the public in preventing the throwing down of litter on the streets.

### FACTORIES ACT, 1961

The register at the end of 1970 was as follows:-

Garages ... ..	10
Joiners' and Builders' Premises ...	7
Boot and Shoe Repairers.. ...	1
Sanitary Pipes and Brickworks.. ...	1
Blacksmiths and Light Engineering ...	3
Battery Charging... ..	3
Chemical Works ... ..	1
Miscellaneous (Building operations, etc). 12	
Engineering Works.. ...	<u>2</u>
	<u>40</u>

### Inspections for Purposes of Provisions as to Health

	Number on Register	Inspec- tions	Written Notices	Occupiers Prose- cuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by local authorities	20	22	--	--
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the local authority ... ..	17	15	--	--
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the local authority (excluding Outworkers' Premises) ...	3	3	--	--
Total ... ..	40	40	--	--



Number of Cases in which Defects were Found

Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred		Prosecutions instituted
			To H.M.I.	By H.M.I.	
Want of Cleanliness ... ..	--	--	--	--	--
Overcrowding ... ..	--	--	--	--	--
Unreasonable Temperature. ...	--	--	--	--	--
Inadequate Ventilation... ..	--	--	--	--	--
Ineffective Drainage of Floors	--	--	--	--	--
Sanitary Conveniences:					
(a) Insufficient ... ..	--	--	--	--	--
(b) Unsuitable or Defective.	3	3	--	--	--
(c) Not Separate for Sexes..	--	--	--	--	--
Total... ..	3	3	--	--	--

Part VIII of the Act - Outwork

	Section 133		
	No. of Out-workers in August list required by Section 133(1)(c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of Prosecutions for failure to supply lists
Paper bags ... ..	--	--	--
The making of boxes or other receptacles or parts thereof made wholly or partially of paper...	3	--	--
Total ... ..	3	--	--

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

Section 13 - Inspections made of Various Food Premises

Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	15
Butchers	...	...	...	...	31
Canteens, Restaurants & Snack Bars					27
Fried Fish Shops	...	...	...		20
General Dealers & Confectioners...					128
Hospital Kitchens	...	...	...		6
Public Houses	...	...	...		39
School Kitchens	...	...	...		8

UNSOUND FOOD

SURRENDERED

Cooked Meats	...	...	...	23 lbs.
Canned Meats	...	...	...	34 lbs. (45 containers)
Other various canned and bottled foods	...	...	...	352 lbs. (470 containers)

Disposal of Unsound Food

Food has been disposed of at the West Wylam refuse tip and by incineration.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955. Section 16 - Registration of Premises for the sale of ice cream and the manufacture of sausages and other foods.

Eight samples of ice cream were taken during the year and seven were placed in Grade I, one sample being placed in Grade II by the Public Health Laboratory in Newcastle who carried out the examination of these samples.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955. Section 63 - Slaughter Houses

All meat to butchers shops is supplied from wholesalers in Newcastle or Hexham. No slaughtering is carried out in the district.



## Control and Supervision of Milk Supplies

12 samples of milk, pasteurised or homogenised, were taken by the Northumberland County Health Inspector. These samples were obtained from retailers in the district, some being collected from schools.

One sample of untreated milk was obtained from a local farm and examined by the Public Health Laboratory for brucella abortus and the result was satisfactory.

## Slaughter of Poultry Act, 1967 - Poultry Inspection

No specific action was necessary under this Act but inspections were made in retail shops and butchering premises.

## Water Supply

All houses in the Prudhoe Urban District are supplied from the mains of the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company and there are no outside standpipes.

10 samples of water from domestic taps were collected and examined at the Public Health Laboratory, all the results being satisfactory.

## Swimming Pool, Front Street, Prudhoe

Inspection of the above premises was carried out and five samples of water from the swimming pool were obtained for bacteriological examination, all the results being satisfactory.

## Public Health Act, 1936. Section 269 - Tents, Vans and Sheds.

As reported in my previous annual report, it was necessary to allow on a temporary basis, the use of caravans for men employed on large construction works at Kimberly-Clark's site, Low Prudhoe, and the construction works for the new West Tyne Sewage plant. Inspections of these caravans were made regularly and no serious trouble was experienced. The caravans were generally occupied for only four or five nights per week.

## Disinfection and Disinfestation of Premises

Disinfection was carried out in a number of houses on change of occupation and disinfestation of some premises infested by cockroaches or flies also received attention. In the months of June and July the annual trouble with clover mites occurred and suitable treatment was carried out. A number of wasps nests was destroyed.

Offensive Trades. Public Health Act, 1936 - Section 107

There are no offensive trades in the urban district.

Noise Abatement Act, 1960

No serious trouble regarding noise was encountered during the year. Again, as in the previous year, posters were exhibited in parts of the area.

CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956.

There are no operative Smoke Control Areas in the district but the number of coal-burning houses is steadily decreasing. All the Council's new houses at Edgewell and the 14 bungalows at Broomhill are gas-fired. Coal-burning fires at council houses at Castle Dene, Mickley and Milton Grove, Edgewell, were replaced by gas-fired appliances.

Eltringham Pipe Works which produced a certain amount of smoke and steam from time to time was closed down. Larger premises using coal or solid fuel were National Coal Board Brickworks at West Wylam, Prudhoe and Monkton Hospital and Eastwoods and Moor Road Schools. Most of the large public buildings are now heated by the use of gas or oil.

It is pleasing to note that the large Kimberly-Clark factory at Low Prudhoe is using North Sea gas for their boiler installations, the Company having the supply piped to Low Prudhoe from Hedley, a distance of three miles.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963.

Registration and General Inspection

The Prudhoe administrative area is 3,889 acres but the built up area is comparatively compact and many of the premises registered under the Act are fairly close together. During 1970, three new retail shops were opened and registered, these all being of a high standard. Three shops were closed with the result that the number of shops registered remained the same.

The requirements of the Act as regards heating were not met in the early part of December due to the "go slow" at the Power Stations when electricity was cut off at various times. It has been observed during inspections in cold weather that heating facilities have been improved.



It was still necessary to remind the owners of premises that First Aid boxes must be kept in order and articles which had been used replaced promptly.

Two accidents were reported and the premises and persons involved visited. In each case, no defects regarding the premises were found. No special difficulties were encountered during the year.

The Department's Circulars and Leaflets issued at intervals were found to be invaluable in the carrying out of this Act.

<u>Class of Premises</u>	<u>No. of Premises newly registered during the year</u>	<u>Total No. of registered premises at end of year</u>	<u>No. of registered premises receiving one or more general inspections during the year</u>
Offices ... ..	-	18	15
Retail shops. ...	3	46	38
Wholesale shops, warehouses ...	-	1	1
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens ...	-	9	9
Fuel storage depots	-	3	3
Totals...	3	77	66

Analysis by Workplace of Persons employed in Registered Premises:

<u>Class of Workplace</u>	<u>Number of Persons employed</u>
Offices ... ..	54
Retail shops. ... ..	251
Wholesale departments, warehouses	2
Catering establishments open to the public ... ..	55
Canteens ... ..	5
Fuel storage depots ... ..	3
Total	<u>370</u>
Total Males	154
Total Females	216

Number of Visits of all kinds to Registered Premises: 81

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

As previously reported under Housing, the number of properties in the district continued to increase steadily. In addition the advent of the new factories at Low Prudhoe increased the responsibilities under this Act especially during the time of construction when contractors were on site.

A thorough examination of the sewers throughout the district, combined with the Sewage Works, was carried out during the year and the survey showed that the sewers were clear of rats.

Every complaint received at the office was investigated and suitably dealt with. Several areas were surveyed after reported infestations and where it was necessary, the rodent operator dealt successfully with any trouble.

	Type of Property	
	Non-Agricultural	Agricultural
<u>Properties other than sewers</u>		
1. Number of properties in district.	3,478	27
2. (a) Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification.....	95	--
(b) Number infested by (1) Rats..	36	--
(2) Mice..	22	--
3. (a) Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification.....	74	6
(b) Number infested by (1) Rats..	7	--
(2) Mice..	10	--
<u>Sewers</u>		
4. Were any sewers infested by rats during the year?	No	

## Conclusion

This Report for 1970 gives me much pleasure as I have during that year completed 25 years service with the Council as your Public Health Inspector and this will be my last Report.

The Report follows the usual form as regards the various matters covered by the Public Health Department.

During the year, changes took place in various parts of the district, further private housing estates being developed, completion of the major building programme of council houses and the construction of the large paper tissue factory at Low Prudhoe which covered the open space left by the demolition of I.C.I., Factory and provided a much needed source of employment. Prefabricated houses were all removed and two of the sites used for the rebuilding of houses. Improvement grant work proceeded on older private properties and prewar council houses and appeared to be steadily increasing at the end of the year. The number of houses without baths, hot water and such amenities is now relatively small.

I wish to express my thanks to Councillor A. Glendinning, Chairman of the Public Health Committee for his encouragement and understanding; to Dr. H.C.T. Smith, Medical Officer of Health, and Mr. A.G.A. Groome, Clerk of the Council, for their help and co-operation; to Miss J. Gray who has ably assisted in the work of the Public Health Department and to the Chairman of the Council and all Members for their support.

Yours faithfully,

W. G. Tweddle,

Public Health Inspector





